1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 9 SAN JOSE DIVISION 10 11 SEB INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AB, Case No. 5:18-cv-06720-LHK Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated. 12 CLASS ACTION 13 Plaintiff, ORDER PRELIMINARILY APPROVING SETTLEMENT AND PROVIDING FOR 14 v. NOTICE ALIGN TECHNOLOGY, INC., JOSEPH M. 15 HOGAN, and JOHN F. MORICI, 16 Defendants. 17 18 WHEREAS, the above-captioned action is pending in this Court (the "Action"); 19 WHEREAS, (a) SEB Investment Management AB (the "Lead Plaintiff"), on behalf of itself and 20 the Settlement Class (as defined below); and (b) Align Technology, Inc. ("Align" or the "Company"), Joseph M. Hogan, and John F. Morici (collectively, "Defendants") have determined to settle all claims 21 asserted against Defendants in the Action with prejudice on the terms and conditions set forth in the 22 23 Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement dated June 30, 2021 (the "Stipulation"), subject to the approval of this Court (the "Settlement"); 24 WHEREAS, Lead Plaintiff has made a motion, pursuant to Rule 23(e)(1) of the Federal Rules of 25 Civil Procedure, for an order preliminarily approving the Settlement in accordance with the Stipulation 26 27 and directing notice of the Settlement to Settlement Class Members as more fully described herein; 28

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WHEREAS, the Court has read and considered: (a) Lead Plaintiff's motion for preliminary approval of the Settlement and authorization to retain the Claims Administrator (defined below) to provide notice of the Settlement to the Settlement Class, and the papers filed and arguments made in connection therewith; and (b) the Stipulation and the exhibits attached thereto;

WHEREAS, during the October 21, 2021 hearing on Lead Plaintiff's motion for preliminary approval of the Settlement, the Court requested that certain revisions be made to the notice documents;

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2021, Lead Plaintiff submitted amended versions of the Notice and Summary Notice which incorporate the revisions requested by the Court, and all references to the Notice and Summary Notice herein are to the amended documents filed with the Court on November 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, unless otherwise defined in this Order, capitalized terms herein shall have the same meaning as they have in the Stipulation;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 1. Proposed Class Certification for Settlement Purposes The Parties have proposed the certification of the following Settlement Class pursuant to Rules 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and solely for purposes of effectuating the proposed Settlement: all persons and entities who purchased or otherwise acquired the common stock of Align between May 23, 2018 and October 24, 2018, both dates inclusive (the "Settlement Class Period"), and who were damaged thereby. Excluded from the Settlement Class are: (I) Defendants; (II) present or former executive officers and directors of Align during the Settlement Class Period and their Immediate Family Members; (III) any of the foregoing entities' and individuals' legal representatives, heirs, successors or assigns; and (IV) any entity in which Defendants have or had a controlling interest, or any affiliate of Align. For the avoidance of doubt, "affiliates" are persons or entities that directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, control, are controlled by or are under common control with one of the Defendants. Also excluded from the Settlement Class are any persons and entities who or which submit a request for exclusion from the Settlement Class that is accepted by the Court.
- 2. <u>Class Findings</u> The Court finds, pursuant to Rule 23(e)(1)(B)(ii) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, that it will likely be able to certify the Settlement Class for purposes of the proposed Settlement. Specifically, the Court finds that each element required for certification of the Settlement Class

pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure has been met or will likely be met:

(a) the members of the Settlement Class are so numerous that their joinder in the Action would be impracticable; (b) there are questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Class that predominate over any individual questions; (c) the claims of Lead Plaintiff in the Action are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class; (d) Lead Plaintiff and Lead Counsel have and will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Settlement Class; and (e) a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the Action.

- 3. The Court also finds, pursuant to Rule 23(e)(1)(B)(ii) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, that it will likely be able to appoint Lead Plaintiff as Class Representative for the Settlement Class and to appoint Lead Counsel Kessler Topaz Meltzer & Check, LLP as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class pursuant to Rule 23(g) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 4. Preliminary Approval of the Settlement The Court hereby preliminarily approves the Settlement, as embodied in the Stipulation, and finds, pursuant to Rule 23(e)(1)(B)(i) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, that it will likely be able to finally approve the Settlement under Rule 23(e)(2) as being fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Settlement Class, subject to further consideration at the Final Approval Hearing to be conducted as described below.
- 5. Final Approval Hearing The Court will hold a hearing (the "Final Approval Hearing") on April 28, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. at the Robert F. Peckham Federal Building & United States Courthouse 280 South 1st Street, San Jose, CA 95113, for the following purposes: (a) to determine whether, for purposes of the Settlement only, the Action should be certified as a class action on behalf of the Settlement Class, Lead Plaintiff should be appointed as Class Representative for the Settlement Class, and Lead Counsel should be appointed as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class; (b) to determine whether the proposed Settlement on the terms and conditions provided for in the Stipulation is fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Settlement Class, and should be finally approved by the Court; (c) to determine whether a Judgment substantially in the form attached as Exhibit B to the Stipulation should be entered dismissing the Action with prejudice against Defendants; (d) to determine whether the proposed Plan of Allocation for the proceeds of the Settlement is fair and reasonable and should be approved; (e) to determine whether the motion by Lead Counsel for an award of attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses should be approved;

and (f) to consider any other matters that may properly be brought before the Court in connection with the Settlement. Notice of the Settlement and the Final Approval Hearing shall be given to Settlement Class Members as set forth in paragraph 7 of this Order.

- 6. The Court may decide to hold the Final Approval Hearing by telephone or video conference without further mailed notice to the Settlement Class. If the Court orders that the Final Approval Hearing be conducted telephonically or by video conference, that decision will be posted on the website to be developed for the Settlement, www.AlignSecuritiesLitigationSettlement.com, as referenced in paragraph 7(c) of this Order. Any Settlement Class Member (or his, her, or its counsel) who wishes to appear at the Final Approval Hearing should consult the Court's docket and/or the Settlement website for any change in date, time, or format of the hearing.
- 7. Retention of Claims Administrator and Manner of Giving Notice Lead Counsel is hereby authorized to retain JND Legal Administration (the "Claims Administrator") to supervise and administer the notice procedure in connection with the Settlement as well as the processing of Claims as more fully set forth below. Notice of the Settlement and the Final Approval Hearing shall be provided as follows:
 - (a) Defendants shall provide to the Claims Administrator in electronic format, such as Excel, at no cost to the Settlement Fund, Lead Plaintiff, the Settlement Class, Lead Counsel, or the Claims Administrator, lists (consisting of names, addresses, and e-mail addresses (if available)) of shareholders of Align common stock during the Settlement Class Period, to the extent such lists are reasonably available from Align's stock transfer agent, within five (5) business days of the date of entry of this Order;
 - (the "Notice Date"), the Claims Administrator shall cause a copy of the Notice and the Claim Form, substantially in the forms attached hereto as Exhibits 1 and 2, respectively (the "Notice Packet"), to be mailed by first-class mail or emailed to potential Settlement Class Members at the addresses set forth in the records provided by Defendants, or who otherwise may be identified through further reasonable effort;

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- (c) contemporaneously with the mailing of the Notice Packet, the Claims Administrator shall cause copies of the Notice and the Claim Form to be posted on a website to be developed for the Settlement, from which copies of the Notice and Claim Form can be downloaded;
- (d) not later than ten (10) business days after the Notice Date, the Claims Administrator shall cause the Summary Notice, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit 3, to be published once in *The Wall Street Journal* and to be transmitted once over the *PR Newswire*; and
- (e) not later than seven (7) calendar days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, Lead Counsel shall serve on Defendants' Counsel and file with the Court proof, by affidavit or declaration, of such mailing and publication.
- Approval of Form and Content of Notice The Court (a) approves, as to form and content, the Notice, the Claim Form, and the Summary Notice, attached hereto as Exhibits 1, 2, and 3, respectively, and (b) finds that the mailing and distribution of the Notice and the Claim Form and the publication of the Summary Notice in the manner and form set forth in paragraph 7 of this Order (i) is the best notice practicable under the circumstances; (ii) constitutes notice that is reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Settlement Class Members of the pendency of the Action, of the effect of the Settlement (including the Releases to be provided thereunder), of Lead Counsel's motion for attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses, of their right to object to the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, and/or Lead Counsel's motion for attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses, of their right to exclude themselves from the Settlement Class, and of their right to appear at the Final Approval Hearing; (iii) constitutes due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all persons and entities entitled to receive notice of the Settlement; and (iv) satisfies the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the United States Constitution (including the Due Process Clause), the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, 15 U.S.C. §§ 77z-1, 78u-4, as amended, and all other applicable law and rules. The date and time of the Final Approval Hearing shall be included in the Notice and Summary Notice before they are mailed and published, respectively.
- 9. <u>Nominee Procedures</u> Brokers and other nominees who purchased or otherwise acquired Align common stock during the Settlement Class Period for the benefit of another person or entity shall:

copies of the Notice Packet to forward to all such beneficial owners and within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of those Notice Packets forward them to all such beneficial owners; or (b) within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the Notice, send a list of the names, mailing addresses, and, if available, email addresses, of all such beneficial owners to the Claims Administrator in which event the Claims Administrator shall promptly mail or email the Notice Packet to such beneficial owners. Upon full compliance with this Order, such nominees may seek reimbursement of their reasonable expenses actually incurred in complying with this Order by providing the Claims Administrator with proper documentation supporting the expenses for which reimbursement is sought. Such properly documented expenses incurred by nominees in compliance with the terms of this Order shall be paid from the Settlement Fund, with any disputes as to the reasonableness or documentation of expenses incurred subject to review by the Court.

(a) within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the Notice, request from the Claims Administrator sufficient

- 10. <u>CAFA Notice</u> As provided in the Stipulation, Defendants shall serve the notice required under the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1715 *et seq.* ("CAFA") no later than ten (10) calendar days following the filing of the Stipulation with the Court. Defendants are solely responsible for the costs of the CAFA notice and administering the CAFA notice. No later than April 21, 2022, Defendants shall cause to be served on Lead Counsel and filed with the Court proof, by affidavit or declaration, regarding compliance with 28 U.S.C. § 1715(b).
- 11. Participation in the Settlement Settlement Class Members who wish to participate in the Settlement and to be eligible to receive a distribution from the Net Settlement Fund must complete and submit a Claim Form in accordance with the instructions contained therein. Unless the Court orders otherwise, all Claim Forms must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2022. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Lead Counsel may, at its discretion, accept for processing late Claims provided such acceptance does not delay the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund to the Settlement Class. By submitting a Claim, a person or entity shall be deemed to have submitted to the jurisdiction of the Court with respect to his, her, their, or its Claim and the subject matter of the Settlement.
- 12. Each Claim Form submitted must satisfy the following conditions: (a) it must be properly completed, signed, and submitted in a timely manner in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph; (b) it must be accompanied by adequate supporting documentation for the transactions and

holdings reported therein, in the form of broker confirmation slips, broker account statements, an authorized statement from the broker containing the transactional and holding information found in a broker confirmation slip or account statement, or such other documentation as is deemed adequate by the Claims Administrator with supervision by Lead Counsel as necessary; (c) if the person executing the Claim Form is acting in a representative capacity, a certification of his, her, their, or its current authority to act on behalf of the Settlement Class Member must be included in the Claim Form; and (d) the Claim Form must be complete and contain no material deletions or modifications of any of the printed matter contained therein and must be signed.

- 13. Any Settlement Class Member that does not timely and validly submit a Claim Form or whose Claim is not otherwise approved by the Court: (a) shall be deemed to have waived his, her, their, or its right to share in the Net Settlement Fund; (b) shall be forever barred from participating in any distributions therefrom; (c) shall be bound by the provisions of the Stipulation and the Settlement and all proceedings, determinations, orders, and judgments in the Action relating thereto, including, without limitation, the Judgment or Alternate Judgment, if applicable, and the Releases provided for therein, whether favorable or unfavorable to the Settlement Class; and (d) will be barred from commencing, maintaining, or prosecuting any of the Lead Plaintiff's Released Claims¹ against each and all of the Released Defendants' Parties, as more fully described in the Stipulation and Notice. Notwithstanding the foregoing, late Claim Forms may be accepted for processing as set forth in paragraph 11 above.
- 14. **Exclusion From the Settlement Class** Any member of the Settlement Class who wishes to exclude himself, herself, themselves, or itself from the Settlement Class must request exclusion in writing within the time and in the manner set forth in the Notice, which shall provide that: (a) any such request for exclusion from the Settlement Class must be mailed such that it is postmarked no later than March 31, 2022, to: *SEB Investment Management AB et al. v. Align Technology, Inc. et al.*, EXCLUSIONS, c/o JND Legal Administration, P.O. Box 91328, Seattle, WA 98111, and (b) each request for exclusion

¹ At the Preliminary Approval Hearing the Court expressed concern that the definition of "Released Claims" may be too broad. The parties on the record represented that this release bars only claims based on an identical factual predicate as that underlying the claims settled in this class action, as required by Ninth Circuit law. In reliance on the parties' representation, the Court concludes that the scope of the release is proper.

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17. Appearance and Objections at Final Approval Hearing – Any Settlement Class Member 28 who or that does not request exclusion from the Settlement Class may appear at the Final Approval Hearing

must (i) state the name, address, and telephone number of the person or entity requesting exclusion, and in the case of entities, the name and telephone number of the appropriate contact person; (ii) state that such person or entity "requests exclusion from the Settlement Class in SEB Investment Management AB et al. v. Align Technology, Inc. et al., Case No. 18-CV-06720-LHK (N.D. Cal.)"; (iii) state the number of shares of Align common stock that the person or entity requesting exclusion (A) owned as of the opening of trading on May 23, 2018 and (B) purchased/acquired and/or sold during the Settlement Class Period, as well as the dates, number of shares, and prices of each such purchase/acquisition and sale; and (iv) be signed by the person or entity requesting exclusion or an authorized representative. A request for exclusion shall not be effective unless it provides all the required information and is postmarked within the time stated above, or is otherwise accepted by the Court. Copies of all requests for exclusion from the Settlement Class received by the Claims Administrator shall be provided to Lead Counsel and Defendants' Counsel on a rolling basis within five (5) business days of receipt and by no later than April 7, 2022, for all requests for exclusion received as of that date.

- 15. Any person or entity who or that timely and validly requests exclusion in compliance with the terms stated in this Order and is excluded from the Settlement Class shall not be a Settlement Class Member, shall not be bound by the terms of the Settlement or any orders or judgments in the Action, and shall not receive any payment out of the Net Settlement Fund.
- 16. Any Settlement Class Member who or that does not timely and validly request exclusion from the Settlement Class in the manner stated in this Order: (a) shall be deemed to have waived his, her, their, or its right to be excluded from the Settlement Class; (b) shall be forever barred from requesting exclusion from the Settlement Class in this or any other proceeding; (c) shall be bound by the provisions of the Stipulation and Settlement and all proceedings, determinations, orders, and judgments in the Action, including, but not limited to, the Judgment or Alternate Judgment, if applicable, and the Releases provided for therein, whether favorable or unfavorable to the Settlement Class; and (d) will be barred from commencing, maintaining, or prosecuting any of the Lead Plaintiff's Released Claims against any of the Released Defendants' Parties, as more fully described in the Stipulation and Notice.

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at his, her, their, or its own expense, individually or through counsel of his, her, their, or its own choice, by sending a letter to the Clerk of Court, at the address set forth in paragraph 18 below, stating his, her, their, or its intent to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, such that the letter is postmarked no later than March 31, 2022, or as the Court may otherwise direct. If a Settlement Class Member intends to have counsel appear on his, her, their, or its behalf at the Final Approval Hearing, the letter must identify all attorneys who will appear on the Settlement Class Member's behalf and the attorneys must send a notice of their intent to appear. Otherwise, Settlement Class Members will be represented by Lead Counsel.

- 18. Any Settlement Class Member who or that does not request exclusion from the Settlement Class may file a written objection to the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, and/or Lead Counsel's motion for attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses and appear and show cause, if he, she, they, or it has any cause, why the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, and/or Lead Counsel's motion for attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses should not be approved; provided, however, that no Settlement Class Member shall be heard or entitled to contest the approval of the terms and conditions of the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, and/or the motion for attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses unless that person or entity has filed a written objection with the Court. All written objections and supporting papers must: (i) clearly identify the case name and number (SEB Investment Management AB et al. v. Align Technology, Inc. et al., Case No. 18-CV-06720-LHK (N.D. Cal.); (ii) be submitted to the Court either by mailing them to the Clerk of the Court at the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, Robert F. Peckham Federal Building & United States Courthouse, 280 South 1st Street, 2nd Floor, San Jose, CA 95113, or by filing them in person at any location of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California; and (iii) be filed or postmarked no later than March 31, 2022.
- 19. Any objections, filings, and other submissions by the objecting Settlement Class Member also must: (i) identify the name, address, and telephone number of the person or entity objecting and must be signed by the objector; (ii) state with specificity the grounds for the Settlement Class Member's objection, including any legal and evidentiary support the Settlement Class Member wishes to bring to the Court's attention and whether the objection applies only to the objector, to a specific subset of the Settlement Class, or to the entire Settlement Class; and (iii) must include documents sufficient to prove

membership in the Settlement Class, including the number of shares of Align common stock that the objecting Settlement Class Member (A) owned as of the opening of trading on May 23, 2018 and (B) purchased/acquired and/or sold during the Settlement Class Period, as well as the dates, number of shares, and prices of each such purchase/acquisition and sale. The objecting Settlement Class Member shall provide documentation establishing membership in the Settlement Class through copies of brokerage confirmation slips or monthly brokerage account statements, or an authorized statement from the objector's broker containing the transactional and holding information found in a broker confirmation slip or account statement. Objectors who intend to appear and desire to present evidence at the Final Approval Hearing in support of their objection must include in their written objection the identity of any witnesses they may call to testify and any exhibits they intend to introduce into evidence at the hearing.

- 20. Any Settlement Class Member who or that does not make his, her, their, or its objection in the manner provided herein may be deemed to have waived his, her, their, or its right to object to any aspect of the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, and Lead Counsel's motion for an award of attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses and shall be forever barred and foreclosed from objecting to the fairness, reasonableness, or adequacy of the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, or the requested attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses, or from otherwise being heard concerning the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, or the requested attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses in this or any other proceeding.
- 21. <u>Stay and Temporary Injunction</u> Until otherwise ordered by the Court, the Court stays all proceedings in the Action other than proceedings necessary to carry out or enforce the terms and conditions of the Stipulation. Pending final determination of whether the Settlement should be approved, the Court bars, enjoins, and estops Lead Plaintiff and all other members of the Settlement Class from prosecuting any of the Lead Plaintiff's Released Claims against any of the Released Defendants' Parties.
- 22. <u>Settlement Administration Fees and Expenses</u> All reasonable costs incurred in identifying Settlement Class Members and notifying them of the Settlement as well as in administering the Settlement shall be paid as set forth in the Stipulation.
- 23. <u>Settlement Fund</u> The contents of the Settlement Fund held by The Huntington National Bank (which the Court approves as the Escrow Agent) shall be deemed and considered to be in custodia

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legis of the Court, and shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Court, until such time as they shall be distributed pursuant to the Stipulation and/or further order(s) of the Court.

- 24. **Taxes** – Lead Counsel is authorized and directed to prepare any tax returns and any other tax reporting form for or in respect to the Settlement Fund, to pay from the Settlement Fund any Taxes owed with respect to the Settlement Fund, and to otherwise perform all obligations with respect to Taxes and any reporting or filings in respect thereof without further order of the Court in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Stipulation.
- 25. **Termination of Settlement** – If the Settlement is terminated as provided in the Stipulation, the Settlement is not approved, or the Effective Date of the Settlement otherwise fails to occur, this Order shall be vacated, rendered null and void, and be of no further force and effect, except as otherwise provided by the Stipulation, and this Order shall be without prejudice to the rights of Lead Plaintiff, the other Settlement Class Members, and Defendants, and the Parties shall revert to their respective positions in the Action immediately prior to the execution of the Term Sheet on June 11, 2021, as provided in the Stipulation.
- 26. Use of this Order – Neither this Order, the Term Sheet, the Stipulation (whether or not consummated), including the exhibits thereto and the Plan of Allocation contained therein (or any other plan of allocation that may be approved by the Court), nor the negotiations leading to the execution of the Term Sheet and the Stipulation, nor any proceedings taken pursuant to or in connection with the Term Sheet, the Stipulation, and/or approval of the Settlement (including any arguments proffered in connection therewith): (a) shall be offered against any of the Released Defendants' Parties as evidence of, or construed as, or deemed to be evidence of any presumption, concession, or admission by any of the Released Defendants' Parties with respect to the truth of any fact alleged by Lead Plaintiff or the validity of any claim that was or could have been asserted or the deficiency of any defense that has been or could have been asserted in this Action or in any other litigation, or of any liability, negligence, fault, or other wrongdoing of any kind of any of the Released Defendants' Parties or in any way referred to for any other reason as against any of the Released Defendants' Parties, in any civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding, other than such proceedings as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Stipulation; (b) shall be offered against any of the Released Lead Plaintiff's Parties, as evidence of, or

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construed as, or deemed to be evidence of any presumption, concession, or admission by any of the Released Lead Plaintiff's Parties that any of their claims is without merit, that any of the Released Defendants' Parties had meritorious defenses, or that damages recoverable under the Amended Consolidated Complaint would not have exceeded the Settlement Amount or with respect to any liability, negligence, fault, or wrongdoing of any kind, or in any way referred to for any other reason as against any of the Released Lead Plaintiff's Parties, in any civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding, other than such proceedings as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Stipulation; or (c) shall be construed against any of the Releasees as an admission, concession, or presumption that the consideration to be given hereunder represents the amount which could be or would have been recovered after trial; provided, however, that if the Stipulation is approved by the Court, the Parties and the Releasees and their respective counsel may refer to it: (i) to effectuate the protections from liability granted thereunder; (ii) to support a defense or counterclaim in any action brought against them based on principles of res judicata, collateral estoppel, release, good faith settlement, judgment bar or reduction, or any other theory of claim preclusion or issue preclusion or similar defense or counterclaim; or (iii) otherwise to enforce the terms of the Settlement.

27. **Supporting Papers** – Lead Counsel shall file and serve its opening papers in support of the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, and Lead Counsel's motion for attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses no later than February 24, 2022; and reply papers, if any, shall be filed and served no later than April 21, 2022.

IT IS SO ORDERED

Dated: November 2, 2021

ne Ho**o**orable Lucy H. Koh United States District Judge